

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 19, 1997 LB 362A, 362

Nebraska as a matter of law by establishing the salary of the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, and that's what LB 362 does. You can see it set forth...the increase set forth effective on July 1, 1997 and July 1, 1998 in the bill. I would indicate to the members of the body that this is a three percent and a four percent increase, respectively, and share some information with you. At the present time our Supreme Court salaries are below the mean and the median of all Supreme Court salaries in the United States. As I approximate that in round figures, we're about \$5,500 below. At the intermediate appellate court level our salaries are approximately \$9,000 below the mean and the median, and at the trial court level it is...the situation is not as dire, but it's approximately \$2,000 below the mean and the median. Also, I think it is relevant that there are, as I count, 15 people plus an indeterminate number of faculty members of the University of Nebraska College of Law who are all paid more money for their work as public lawyers and counsel to the public in the state of Nebraska than are the justices of the Nebraska Supreme Court. We are in the bottom half of all the states by any methodology you use, both as to the Supreme, the intermediate appellate, and general trial courts. And this bill does nothing more than maintain the status quo and not allow us to fall further behind. For that reason I would urge the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: You've heard the opening. The matter before the body now is the advancement of LB 362. Senator Brashear, would you like to close? Closing is waived. The question is, shall LB 362 be advanced? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record vote has been requested. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read record vote as found on page 679 of the Legislative Journal.) The vote is 27 ayes, 1 nay on the motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: LB 362 is advanced. Mr. Clerk, LB 362A.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 362A was introduced by Senator Brashear. (Read title.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brashear.